

REMARKS

Claims 4-9 are pending in the present application. Claims 4-9 are rejected. Claim 4 is herein amended. New claim 10 has been entered. No new matter has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 4-6 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamarauskas et al. in view of Slack et al. and Wu and Po-Heng.

In order to overcome the rejections, Applicants herein add additional limitations based on the arrangement of the tongues for holding the plug terminals and cables to distinguish over the cited reference. Applicants note that these claim limitations were part of the original parent application and U.S. Patent No. 6,719,581, which resulted from the parent application.

Claim 1, as herein amended, includes the limitation wherein extreme ends of contact pieces of terminals of positive and negative poles are disposed with a difference in their distances from the front end of the opening in said plug loading slots. This limitation does not appear in the U.S. Patent No. 6,719,581. Therefore, it should be clear that claim 1 as herein amended, and claims dependent therefrom, patentably define over the prior art, as well as the referenced U.S. Patent No. 6,719,581.

Applicants also add new claim 10, which requires a speaker terminal, comprising:

one or more plug loading slots each having a front end of which opens into a substantially same sectional shape as a sectional contour of a plug for speaker cables to be inserted, wherein said slots comprise a top, a bottom and right and left sides;

an engaging projection for latching and supporting an engaging portion of an engaging lever of a plug to be inserted and that is disposed at the front end of an opening edge in said respective plug loading slots; and

contact pieces of terminals of positive and negative poles for speakers being disposed on an inmost recessed wall surface of said plug loading slots so as to be horizontal with respect to the front end of said opening, said contact pieces exhibiting the same shape;

wherein an opening wall of said front end of said plug loading slot engages and supports the engaging portion of the engaging lever of the plug to be inserted;

wherein at least one of said top, bottom and right and left sides includes a convex region that guides insertion and removal of a plug, and further prevents inadvertent contact with the contact pieces;

wherein said plug loading slot is asymmetrical between said top and said bottom sides so that said plug can be inserted in only a single position relative to said slot;

wherein extreme ends of contact pieces of terminals of positive and negative poles are disposed with a difference in their distances from the front end of the opening in said plug loading slots; and

wherein said convex region is V-shaped.

While the Examiner has noted various references that teach or suggest any one of the above limitations, there is no single reference that teaches all of them, and there is shown no suggestion to combine the exact set of limitations to reach the present invention. Therefore,

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Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
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Applicants submit that the invention of claim 10 is distinct and non-obvious over the cited references.

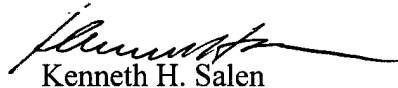
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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